

**Grant Funding for Clean Energy Projects
At Drinking Water and Wastewater Facilities in Massachusetts**

PON-ENE-2014-028

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: We would like to know if we can apply for funding for the same project (solar PV at our WWTP) that we are planning on using Green Communities grant monies for?

A: Yes, Green Communities grant funds may be used in combination with this funding opportunity. Note that only Green Communities designation grant funds (and not competitive grant funds) may be used on solar PV at this time. Any solar PV funded through this PON must be owned by the municipality or district and funding is limited to 15% of the total cost for the system at the facility.

Q: We have some energy efficiency measures that we plan to complete at the same site as the solar PV project at the WWTP. Can we apply both for funds to do the energy efficiency work and the solar?

A: Yes, applications may include both energy efficiency and renewable energy projects but they must be included in a single application.

Q: Our DW facility recently completed many energy efficiency projects at great expense to our town. Might the town be eligible for a grant under PON-ENE-2014-028 to offset the costs of these recently completed projects?

A: No, PON-ENE-2014-028 may not be used to reimburse for clean energy projects that have already been completed.

Q: What stage may a project be at and still be eligible for funding? If we have gone out to bid and selected a contractor, would my project still be eligible?

A: To qualify for funding, a project must not have started its implementation. Procurement and vendor selection are ok before application and awards.

Q: We have a one-month project that needs to be completed by the end of June. Would this funding opportunity move quickly enough for us to receive grant funds and still complete our project by the end of June?

A: We anticipate that contracts will not be signed until early to mid-June. Thus, a one-month project receiving grant funds will not have enough time to be completed by the end of June.

Q: Our town is interested in applying for this grant. Would we be able to use this grant to install solar powered aerators at one of our reservoirs?

A: As a type of clean energy, solar aerators are eligible under this PON as long as it has been recommended by a third-party with acceptable documentation that includes an estimate for potential energy savings or generation along with a total estimated project cost. An additional

opportunity for solar-powered aerators will be released from DOER in the near future under the Municipal Resilience Grant Program.

Q: Are projects funded through this DW WW Clean Energy Grant Program (PON-ENE-2014-028) also eligible to apply for the upcoming Municipal Resilience Grant Program? Can we apply for and potentially receive grant funds from both programs for the same project? If not, which of the two grant programs will have the higher grant ceiling and would therefore be more beneficial to SESD member communities?

A: Yes, if a project meets the eligibility criteria for both the Clean Energy Grant Program and the Municipal Resilience Grant Program, then a facility may apply for, and potentially be awarded funds from, both funding opportunities for the same project. (Note that the Municipal Resilience Grant Program has not yet been released.) We do expect that the Resiliency Grant Program will have higher grant ceilings but will also have specialized project requirements for resiliency, for example islanding ability and black-start capability.

Q: Our town is planning on removing/decommissioning its largest wastewater pump station and replacing it with a gravity sewer system. The pump station currently has two 600 gpm pumps and a 125 KW generator. Will the Town qualify for the grant because they are removing pumps and an emergency generator and not replacing these inefficient power sources by installing a non-electrical solution (gravity sewers) to transport wastewater?

A: If the town has a study recommending this project that quantifies the amount of energy savings that would be gained, then yes, this project is eligible to apply for funding through this PON.

Q: Are state agencies and authorities eligible entities under this PON?

A: Eligibility is defined as "municipal facilities or districts treating or pumping DW or WW." The "municipal" applies to both facilities and districts, therefore state authorities are ineligible for this funding opportunity.